

do not make sense and are unsupported. For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 2 are in allowable condition.

Claim 3 is dependent on Claim 2, and is allowable for the same reasons that Claims 1 and 2 are allowable.

Claims 5 and 6:

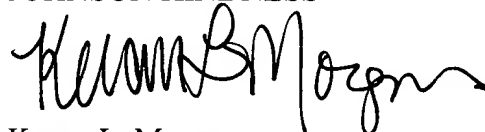
The foregoing arguments regarding Cupo also apply to Claims 5 and 6 for their dependence from Claim 1. The disclosure provided by Zimmermann does not cure the deficiencies of Cupo discussed above.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 are patentable over Cupo and Zimmerman, either alone or in combination. With allowable subject matter already shown in Claims 4 and 7-16, applicant submits that all claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application at an early date is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to **Mail Stop Amendment**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: July 27, 2004

Lynn Zelt

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